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Cantilever-based Force Spectroscopy for Chemical and Biological Detection

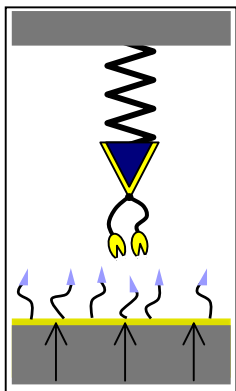
Todd Sulchek, Alex Noy, Tim Ratto, Kevin Langry,
Michael Colvin, Sally Denardo

May 20, 2004

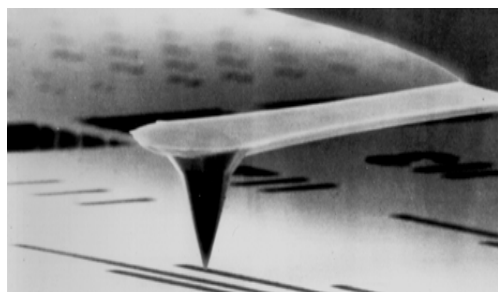
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May 18, 2004 through May 19, 2004

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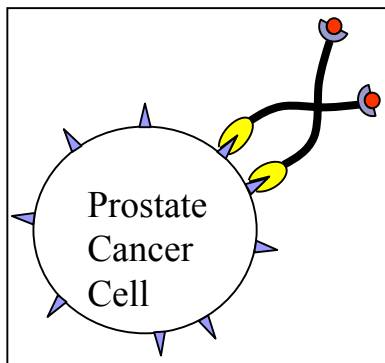


Cantilever-based Force Spectroscopy for Chemical and Biological Detection



Todd Sulchek

*Physical Biosciences Institute
Lawrence Livermore National Lab*



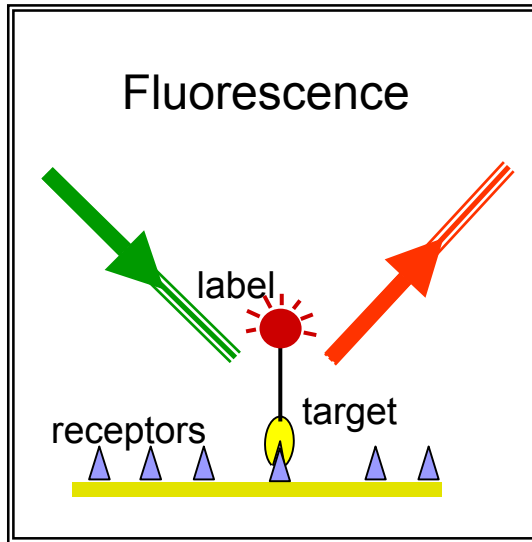
Alex Noy, Tim Ratto, Kevin Langry,
Mike Colvin, LLNL

Sally DeNardo, U.C. Davis

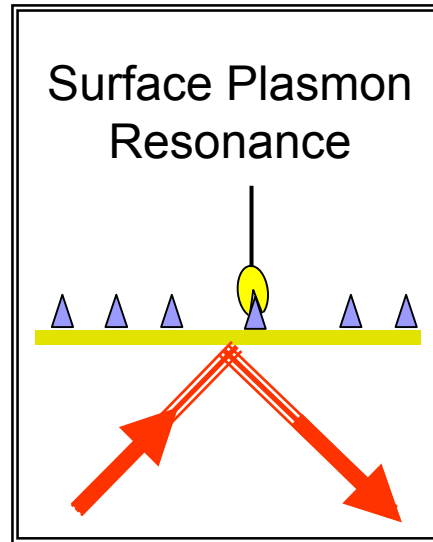


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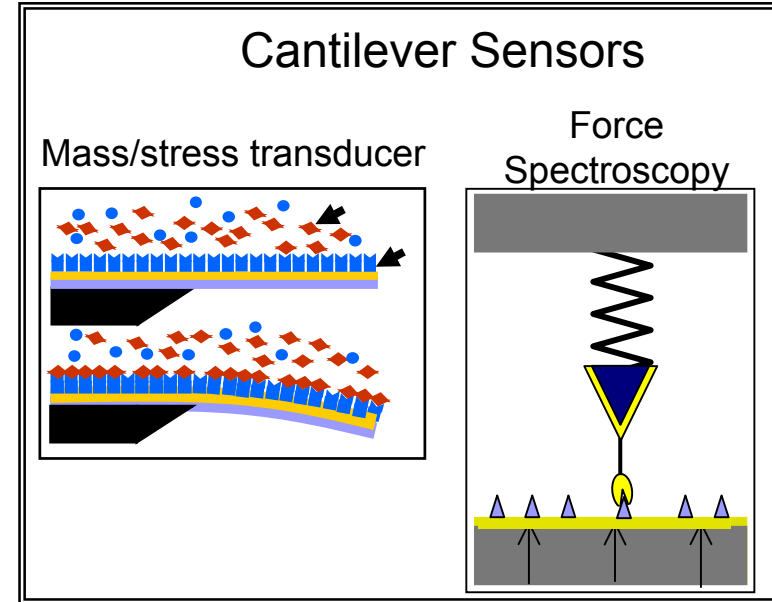
How may we identify whether a target is bound to a receptor



- Yes/no indicator
- requires labeling
- limited number of targets detected in parallel



- easily quantified affinity
- real-time binding
- copious target required
- in vitro* only



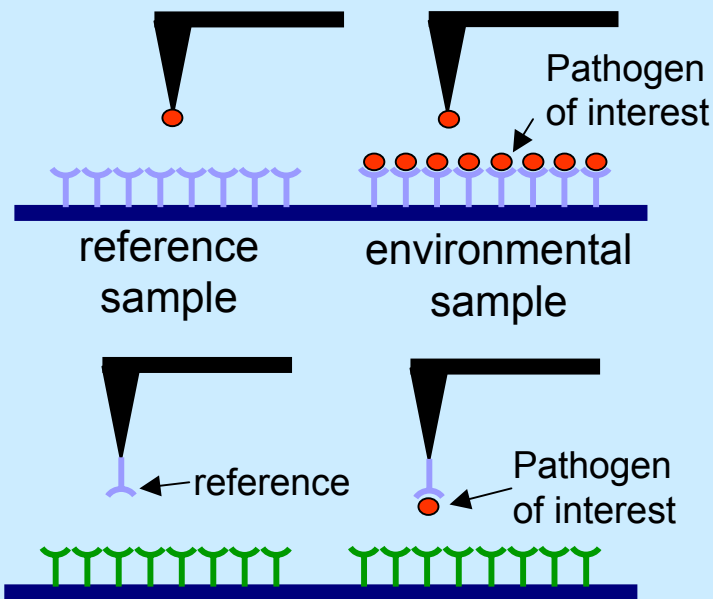
- in vivo* measurements
- parallel target detection
- small target amount

More than just imaging: Force spectroscopy for biomolecule detection or presymptomatic screening for disease

- sensitive and selective
- *in vivo* measurements
- parallel screening of targets
- high throughput capability
- label-free detection

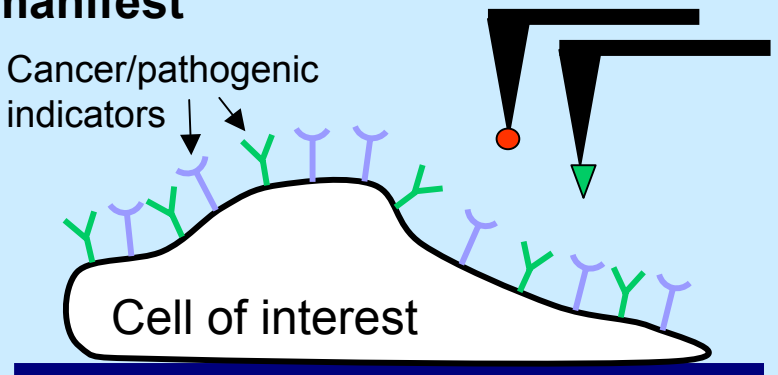
Force-based chemical and biological detection

paradigms for “low” and “lowest” concentration target detection

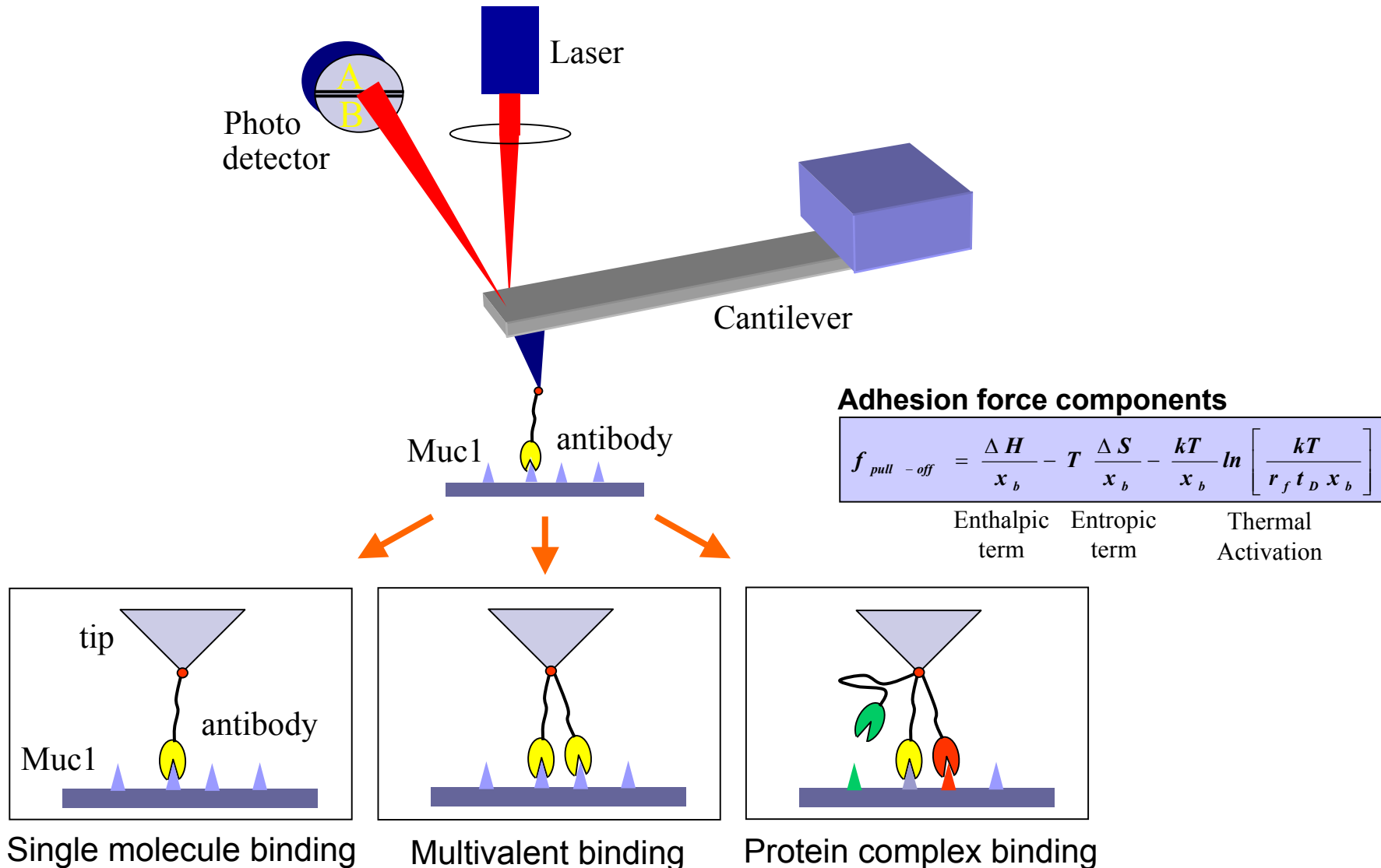


Pathogenic/malignant proteins presented before symptoms manifest

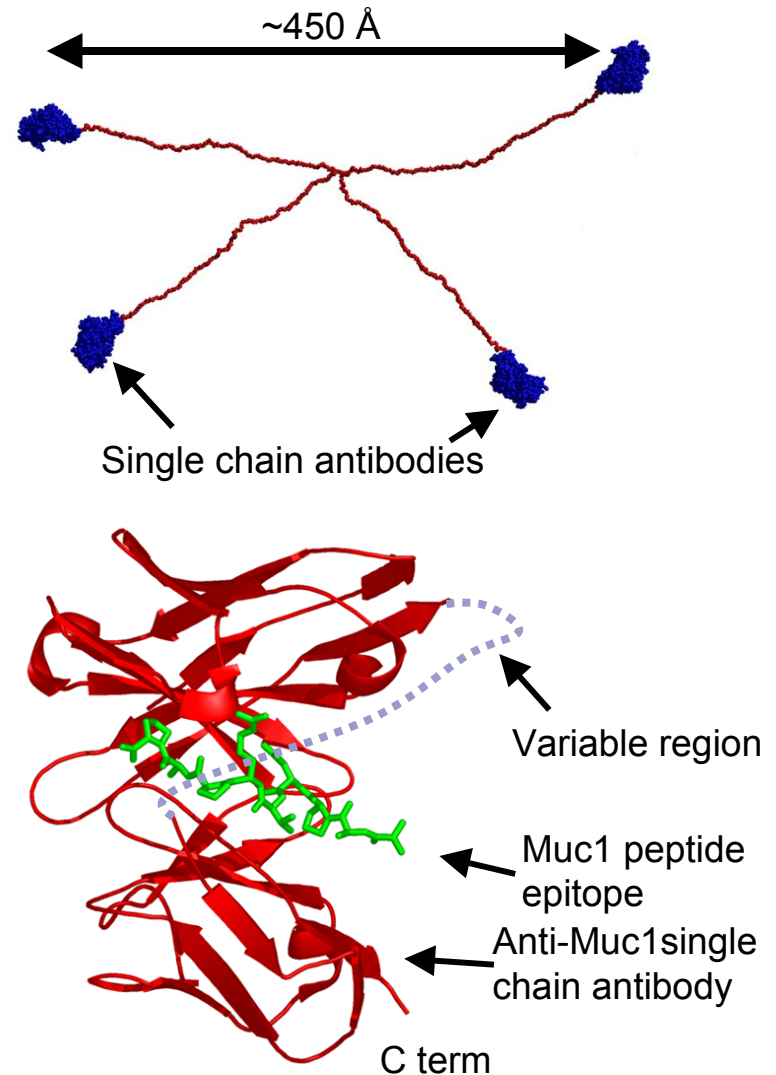
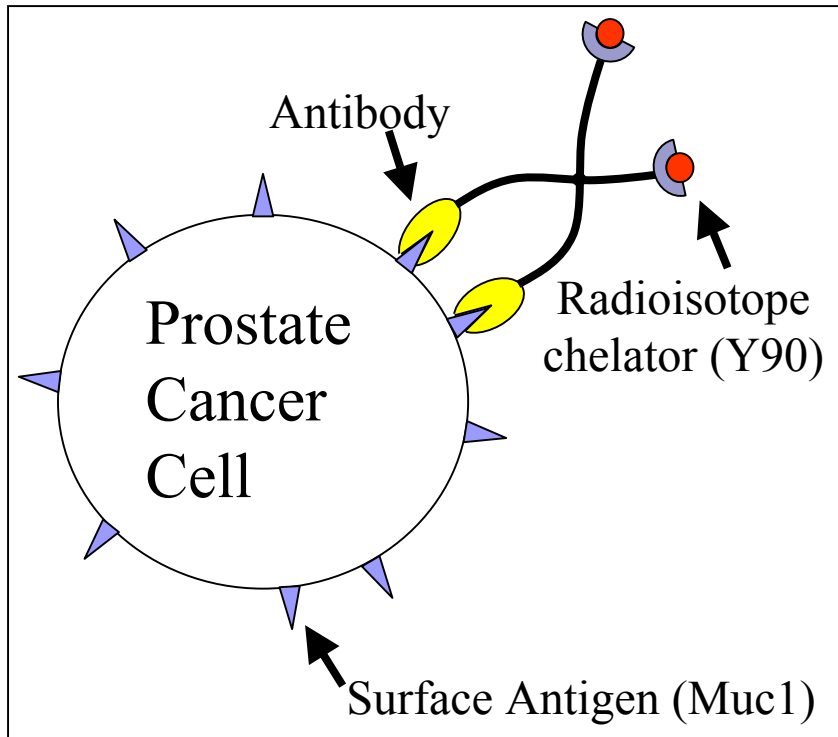
Cancer/pathogenic indicators



The afm provides a method to directly measure single molecule binding events

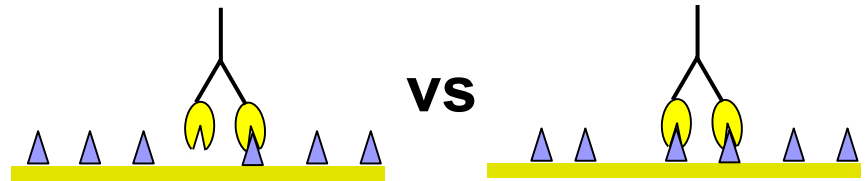


Multivalent binding is used to improve radioimmunotherapy

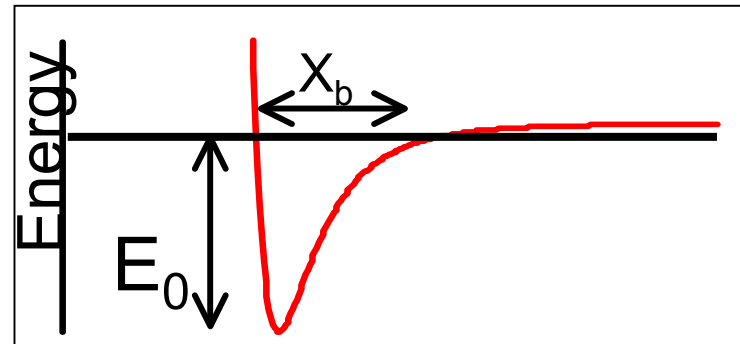


Why are single molecule measurements useful?

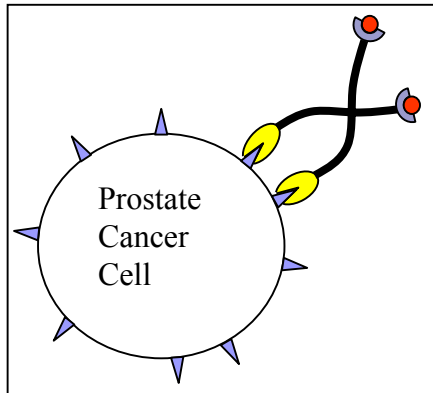
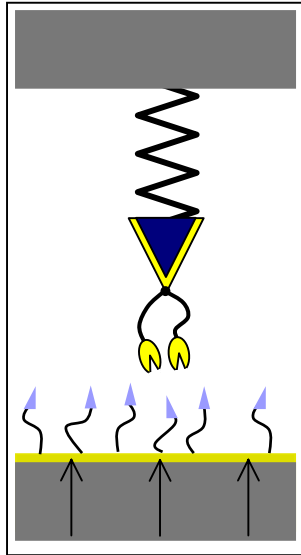
We can measure characteristics of intermediate states, including binding energy magnitudes and dynamics (t_{1on} , t_{2on}).



We can measure intermolecular energy potentials.

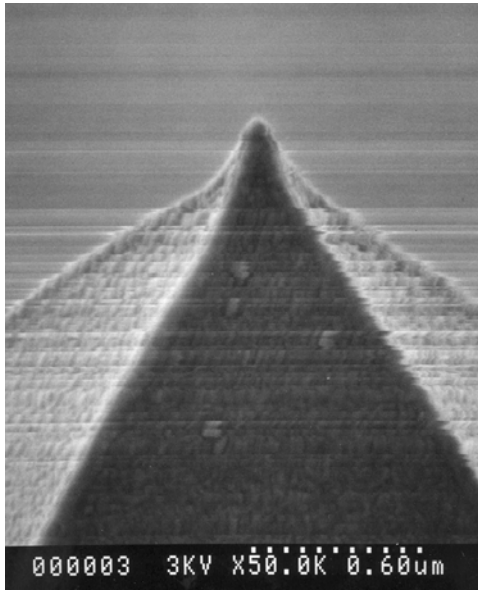


Project Goals for Muc1-antiMuc1 binding



- Directly measure the magnitude of interactions for single and multiple antibody-Mucin1 binding events
- Determine the optimal tether length for high affinity binding
- Determine the role of cooperativity
- Elucidate the kinetics of multivalent binding
- Develop a platform for identification of cancerous cells through single molecule protein-protein binding

How do we functionalize the tip?

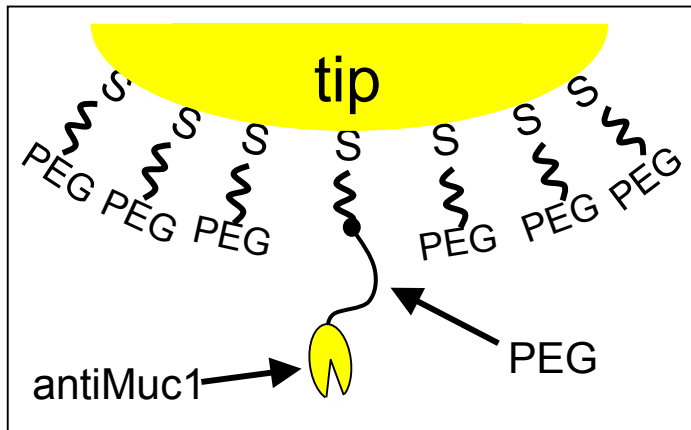


Advantage of polyethylene glycol (PEG) linkers:

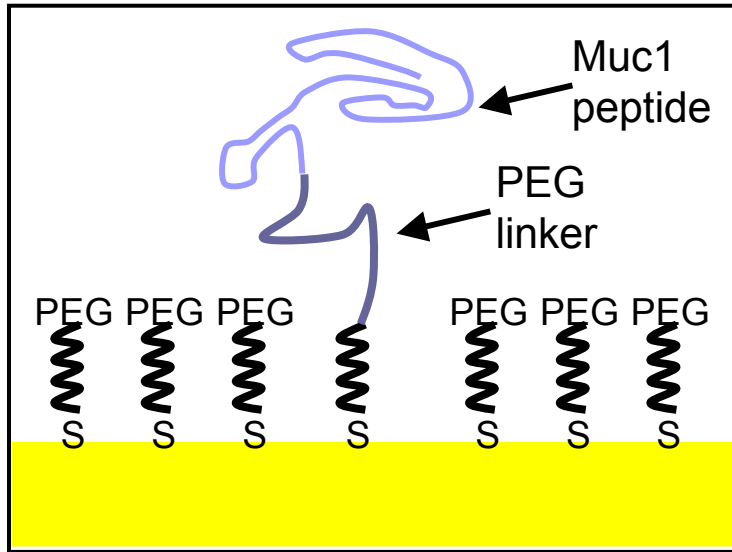
- a) allow orientational freedom
- b) linkers are an integral part of the therapeutics
- c) separate nonspecific tip-sample interactions from the specific interactions.

Method:

- Adsorb self assembled thioalkylamine monolayer on silicon nitride cantilevers with gold sputtered tips
- Covalently link the PEG through the amine bond. To limit the surface density of scFv, a 1:50 molar ratio of reactive PEG molecules to non-reactive methoxy-terminated PEG units .
- Functionalize the PEG tethers with the antibody fragment (~ 2 nM)



How do we functionalize the surface?



Method:

- The Muc1 protein core contains a 20-amino acid tandem repeat sequence, DTRPAPGSTAPPAHGVTS (Fontenot, 1993)

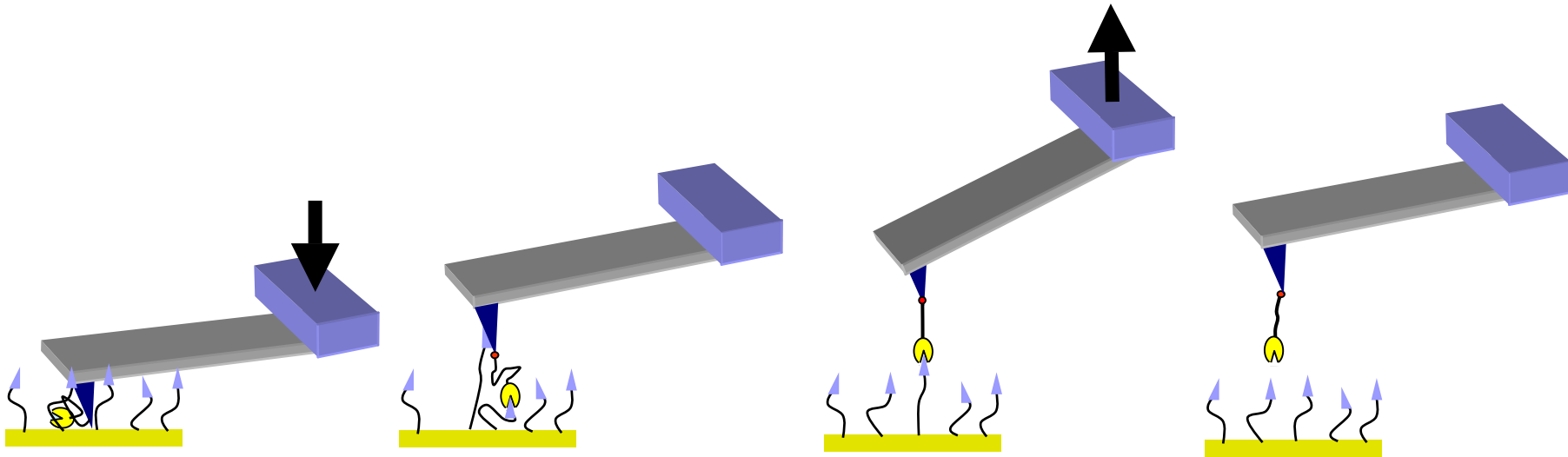
- The peptide is synthesized by Synthetic Peptide Application Lab, University of Pittsburgh

- A flat gold surface is functionalized with the Muc1 peptide using the same tethering scheme developed for the cantilever tip.

- The PEG used to attach the Muc1 peptide is functional with NHS groups on each end.

- The Muc1 peptide has only one free amine group (at the N-terminus) and we use it to bind to the NHS group on the tether.

Typical AFM force curve measurements

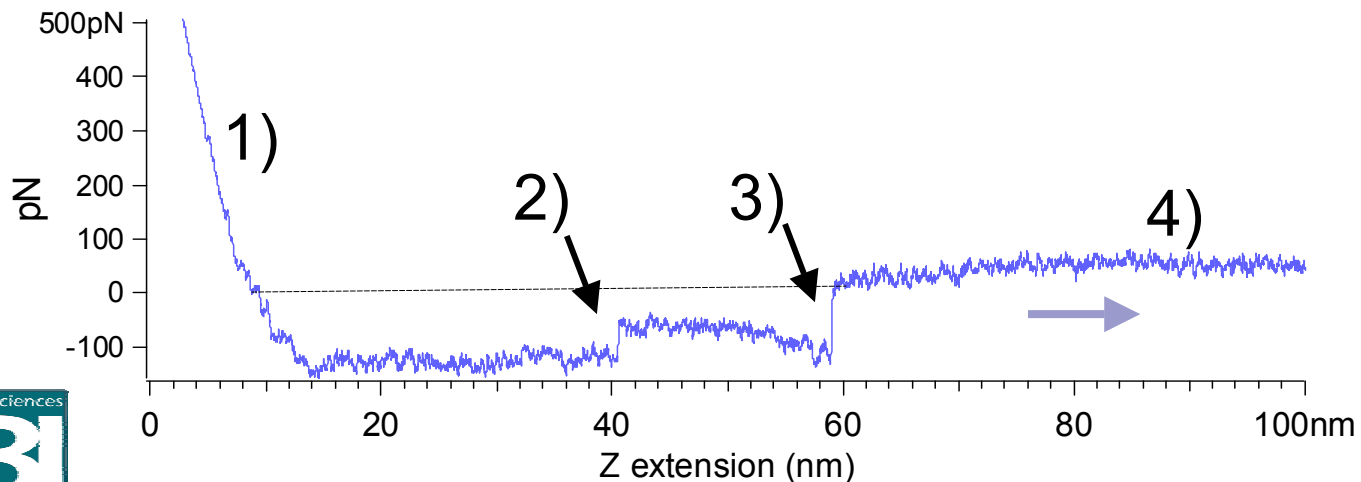


1) Repulsive tip sample interaction

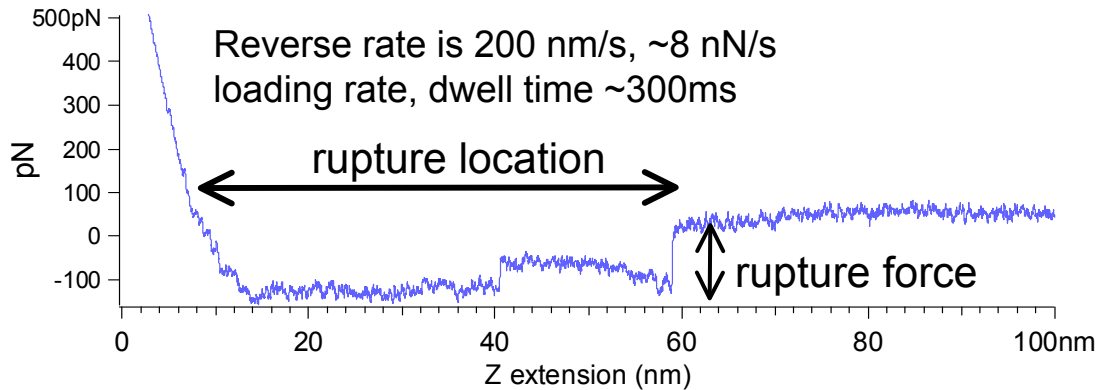
2) Nonspecific binding at one tether length

3) Specific binding at two tether lengths

4) Free cantilever

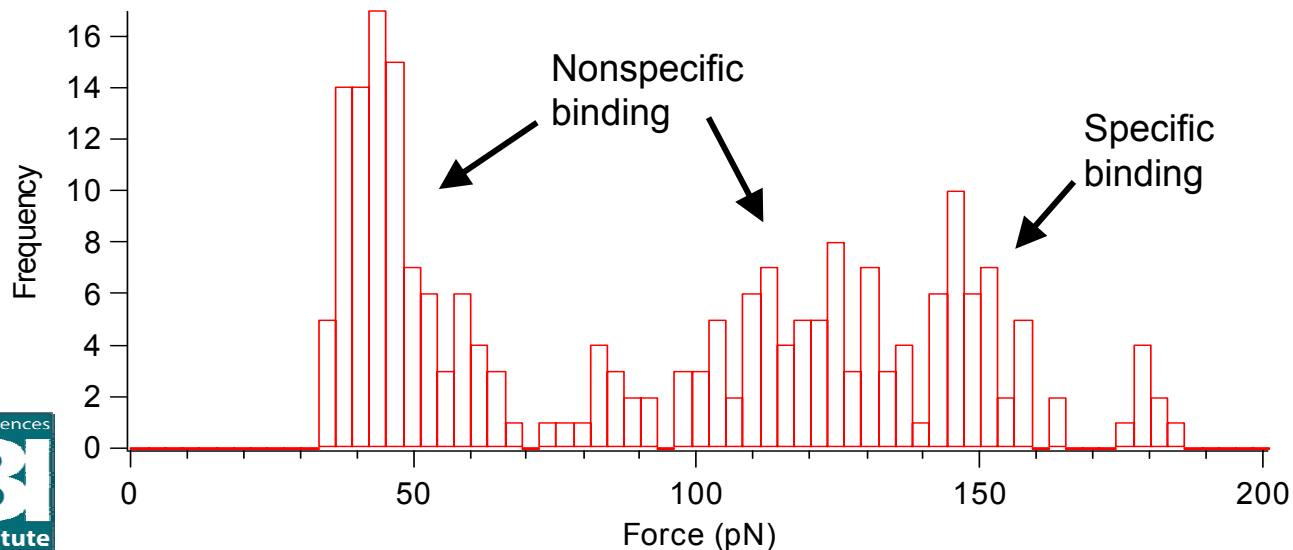


Data analysis



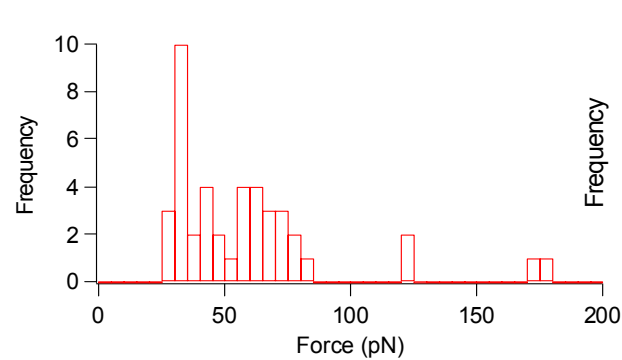
- We use WaveMetrics IgorPro software to automate the data analysis over thousands of force curves.

Unbinding force histogram for functionalized PEG molecules

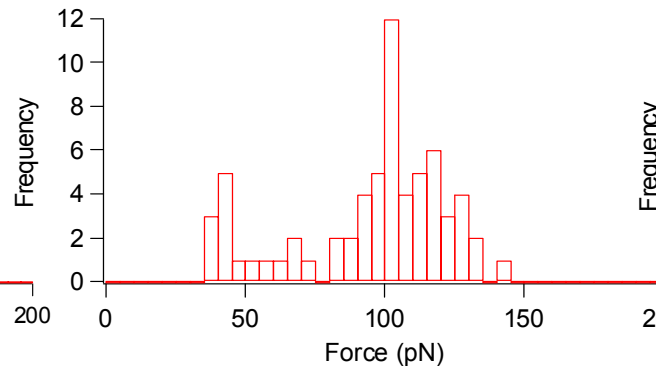


How can we identify peaks?

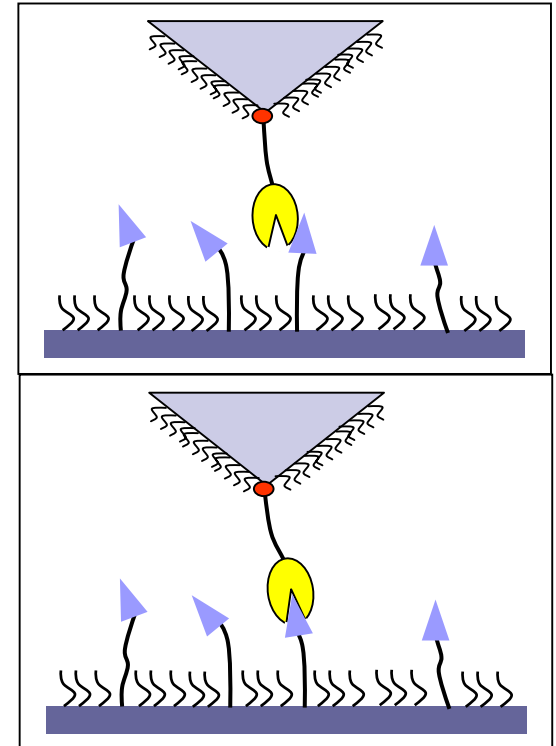
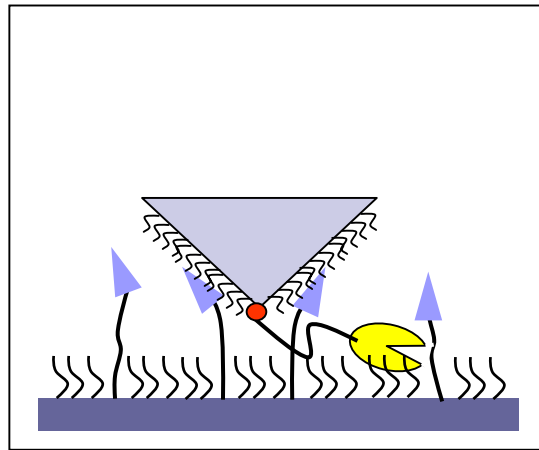
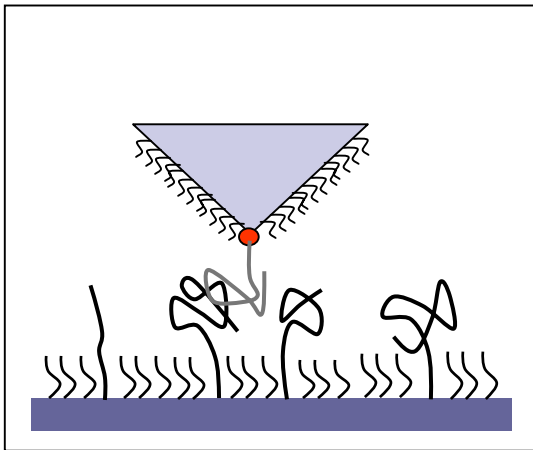
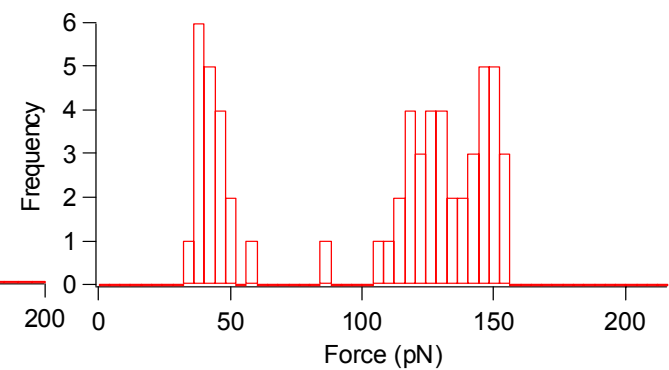
a) Force histogram for unfunctionalized PEG molecules



b) Unbinding force histogram for one-tether-length unbinding

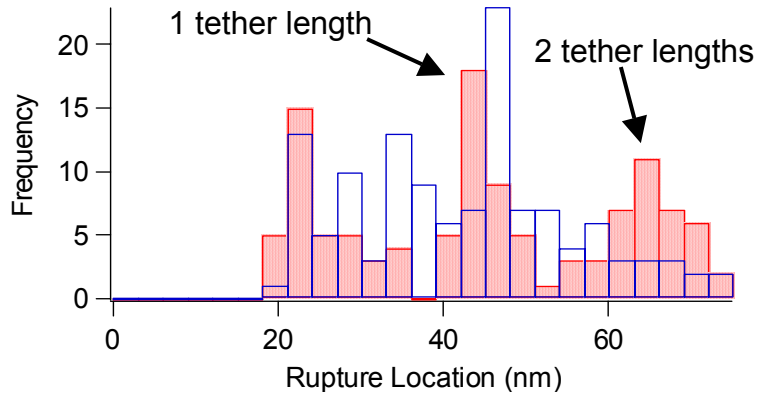


c) Unbinding force histogram for two-tether-length unbinding

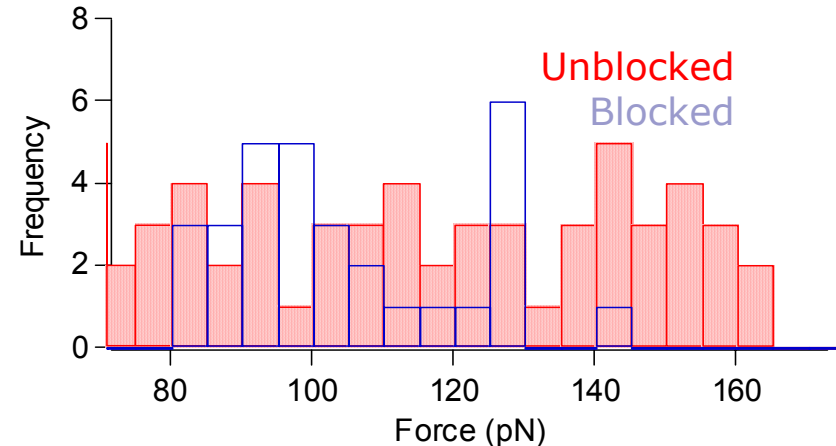


Blocking experiments

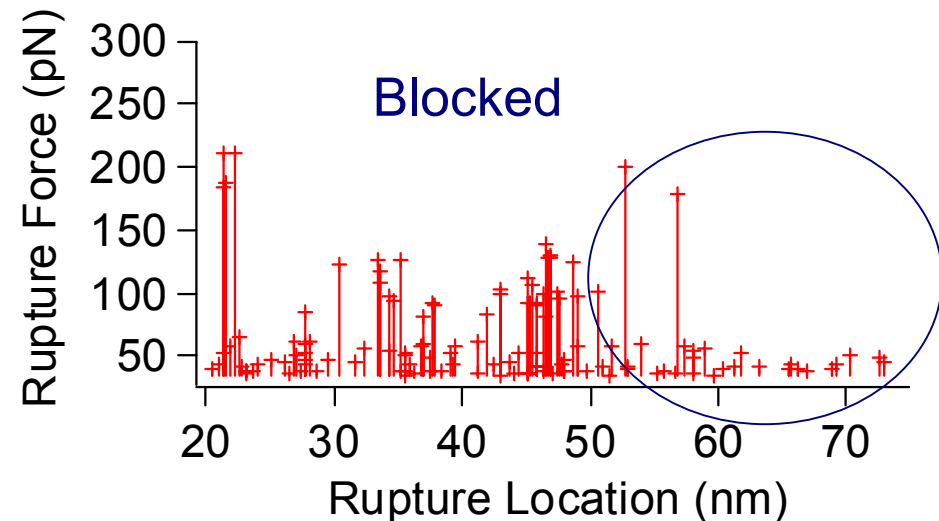
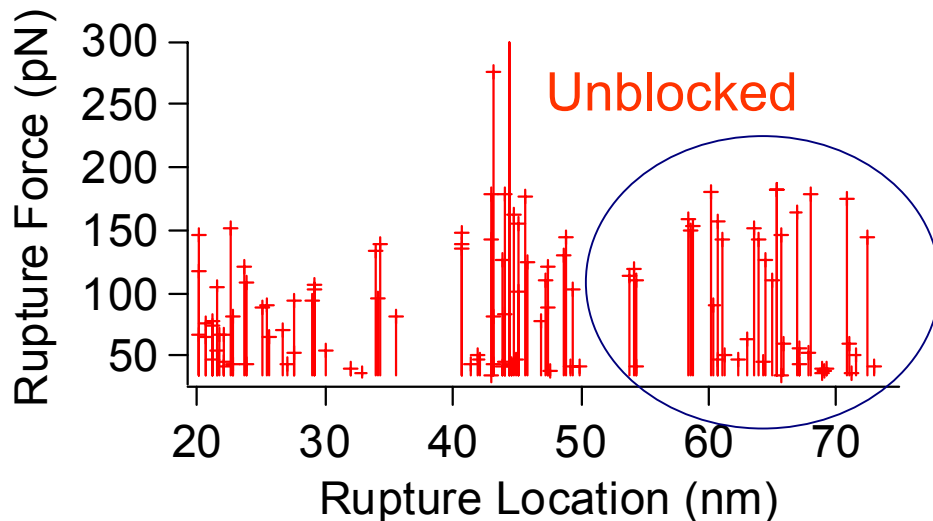
Rupture location histogram



Unbinding force histogram

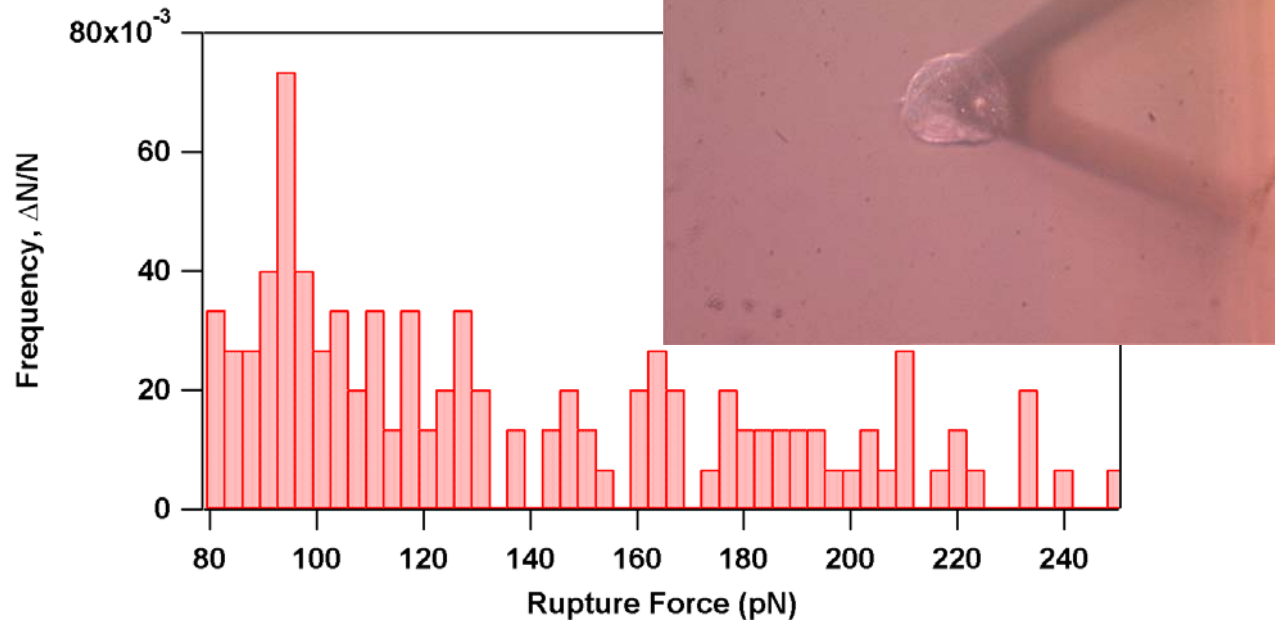


The peak at 145pN can be blocked by flowing an excess concentration free Muc1 antigen in solution (100 μ M). The interactions at two tether lengths are substantially reduced by the blocking and, of those, none have a rupture force near 145 pN.



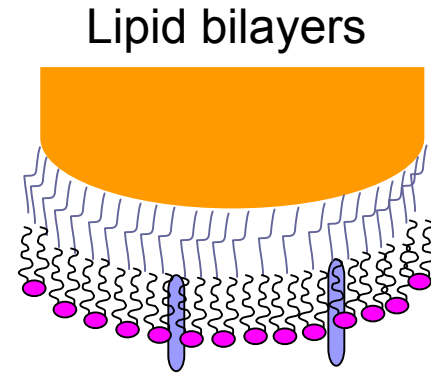
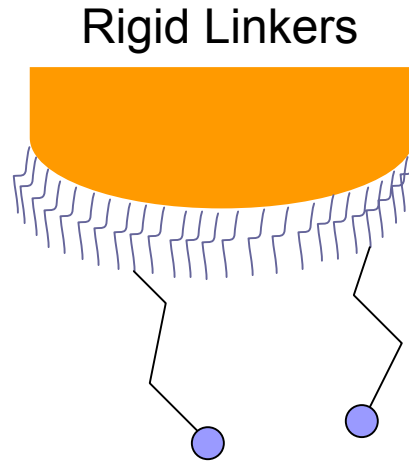
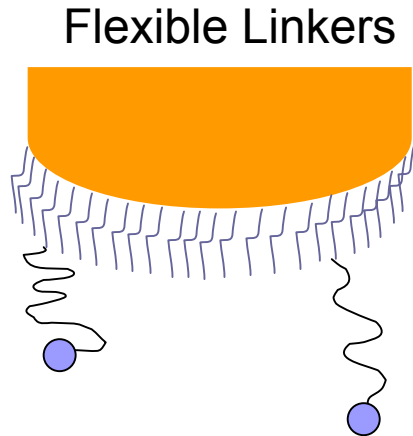
Force Spectroscopy on cancer cells

Data courtesy Tim Ratto

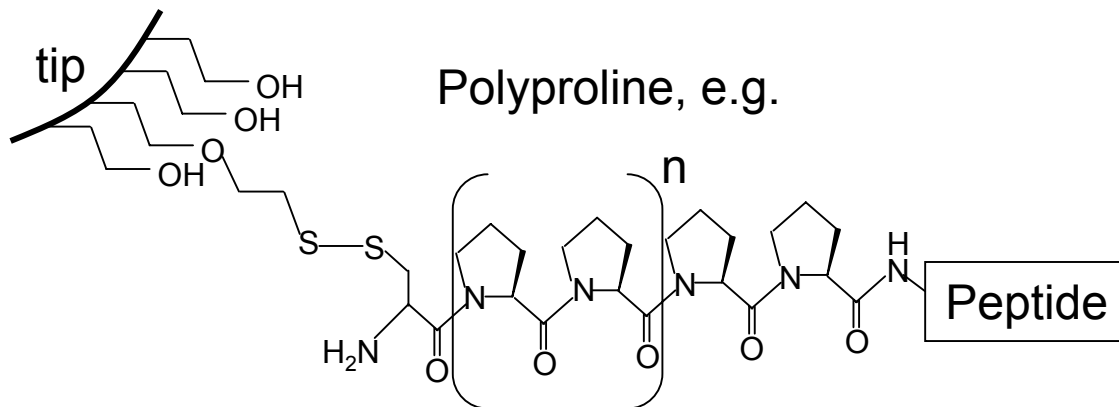


- Force histogram of the interaction between a SHAL-functionalized AFM cantilever and a raji cell, a malignant line cultured from Burkitt's lymphoma.
- The SHAL recognizes the HLA-Dr10 protein, a cell surface marker present on over 80% of lymphoma cells.
- Interactions are blocked by competition experiment with free HLA-Dr10

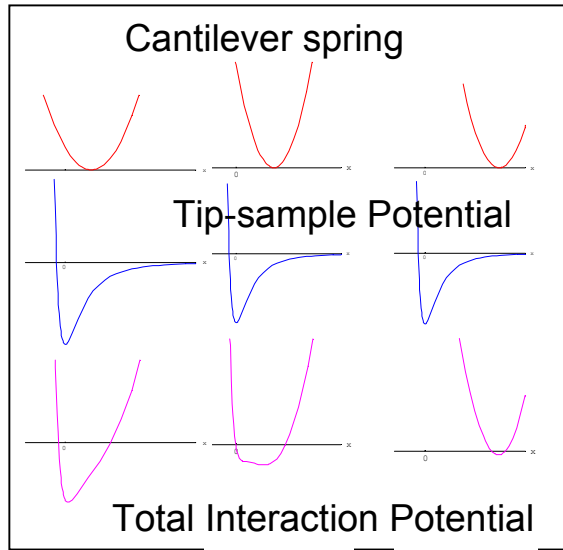
Presenting Systems: Toolkits for functionalization



- Flexible linkers allow orientational freedom
- Rigid linkers (with unsaturated bonds) assist potential reconstruction
- Lipid bilayers required to solvate membrane proteins



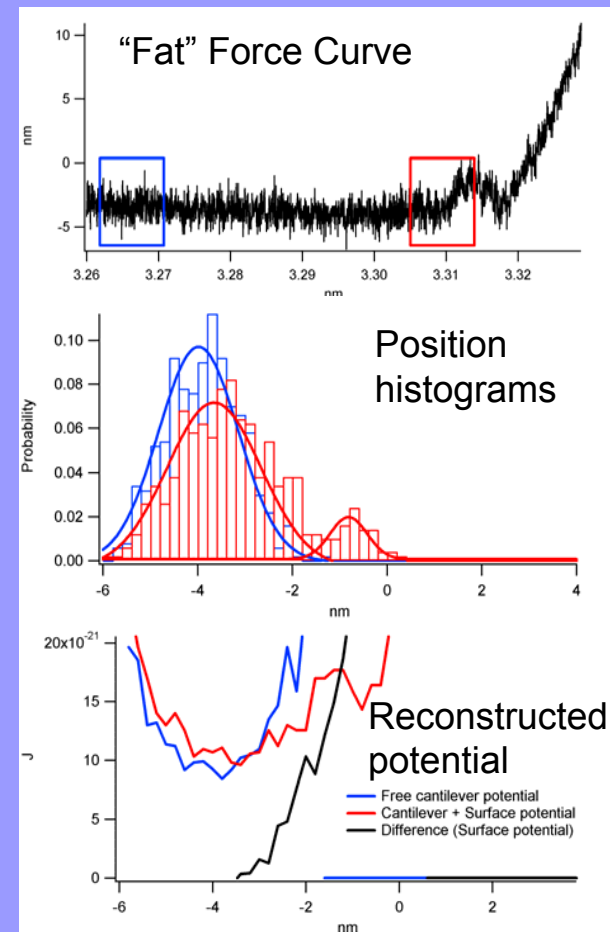
High Throughput: Brownian noise potential reconstruction



- Thermal noise of the cantilever samples total interaction potential
- Cantilever noise contains information about the tip-sample interaction potential
- Need to oversample the force curve and do *BROWNIAN RECONSTRUCTION*
- Need stiff cantilevers to avoid instabilities!
- Next generation of AFMs has the resolution and low noise to provide this information

Data courtesy Alex Noy and Ray Friddle

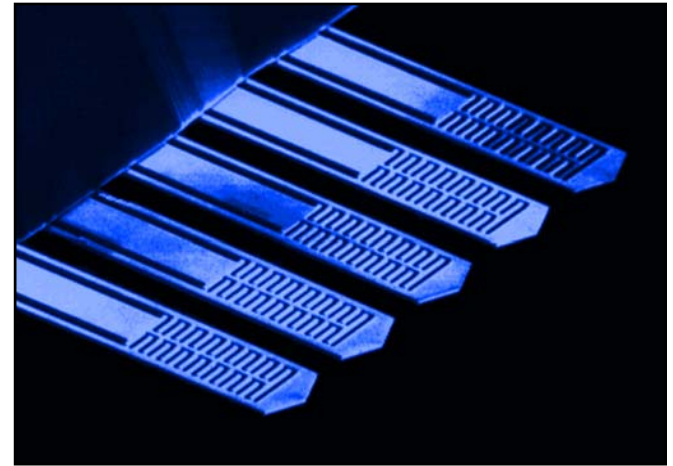
Brownian reconstruction of virus-virus repulsion potential



High Throughput: Measuring multiple cantilevers in parallel

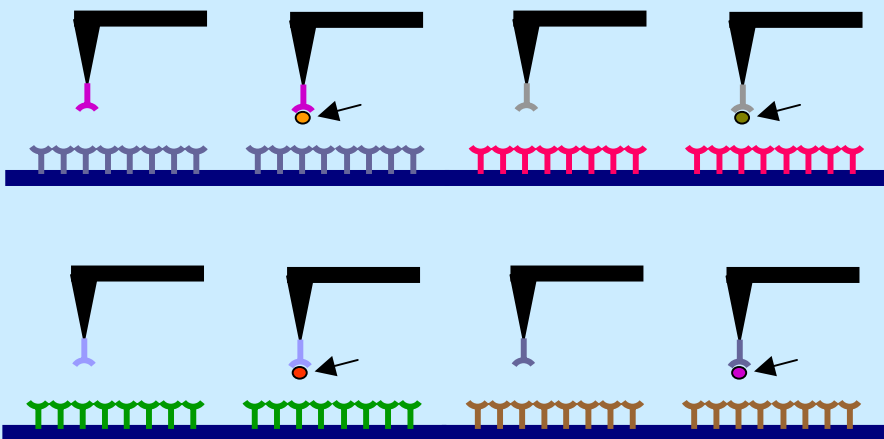
- Thousands of cantilevers can be operated in parallel, e.g. IBM's "millipede"
- Micropipettes, microfluidic, or ink jet systems to functionalize tips and samples

Interferometric sensor arrays, Stanford

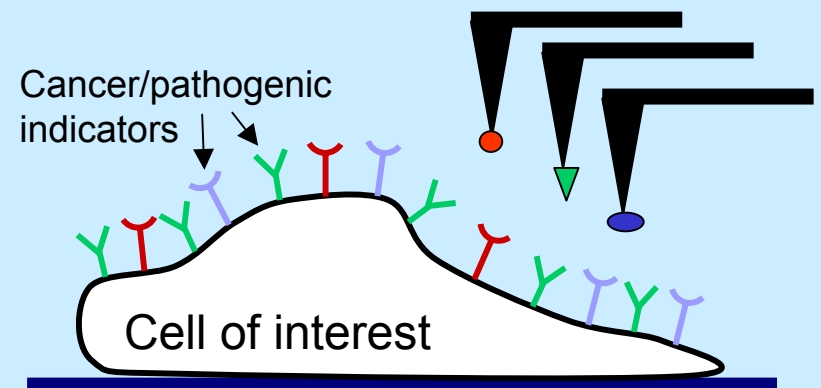


T. Sulchek, et al., Appl. Phys. Lett., 78, 1787 (2001)

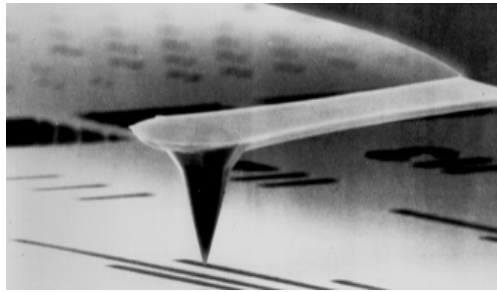
Force-based chemical and biological detection



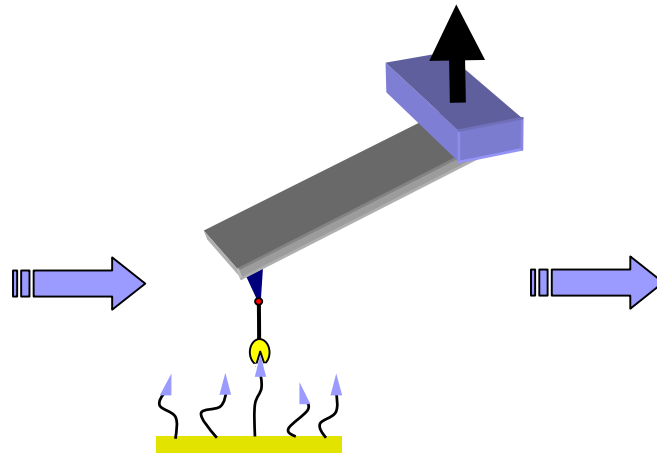
Multiple indicators increase likelihood of proper identification



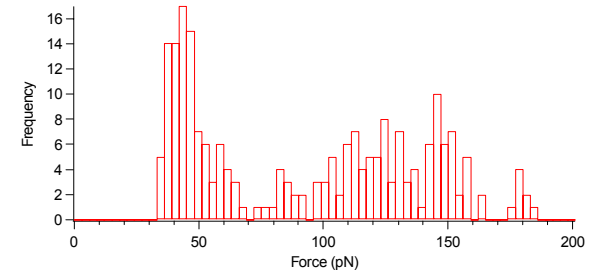
Summary of Force Spectroscopy sensing



Cantilever sensor



Force measurements



Binding signature

todds@llnl.gov
UCRL-PROC-204264

A. Noy, S. Zepeda, C. A. Orme, Y. Yeh, J. J. De Yoreo, "Entropic Barriers in Nanoscale Adhesion," J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 125, p 1356 (2003).

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A. Noy, D. V. Vezenov, C. M. Lieber "Chemical Force Microscopy," Ann. Rev. Mat. Sci. 27, p 381-421 (1997) .